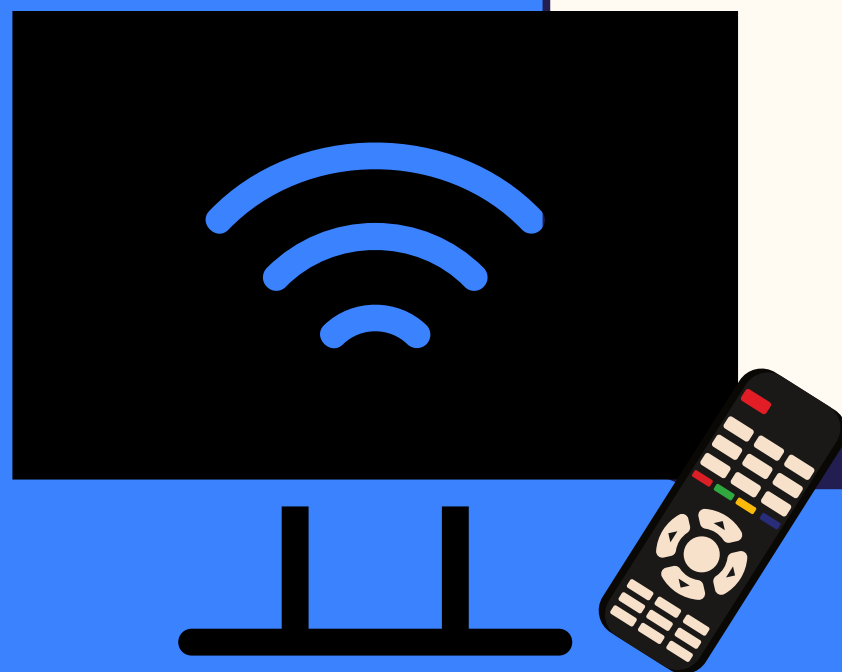




# INTRO TO STREAMING SERVICES

TECH TIME AT HTPL

UPDATED - 2026



HARRISON TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# WHAT ARE STREAMING SERVICES?

- **Streaming:** Television, movies, & original programming delivered through an Internet connection
- Main ways to access streaming content: through a device, smart TV, or computer
- Pay a monthly rate for streaming services without signing up for long-term contracts



# BEFORE YOU START...

Cutting the cord is not for everyone but you'll be surprised by how much is available to stream at a significantly lower cost than cable.

There is no one "right way" to start streaming. You have to figure out what you want to watch and piece together the streaming combination that works for you.

Have your email and password on hand for creating accounts for the streaming services.

**Internet Requirements**  
Make sure your internet speed is high enough to stream. More information on the next slide.

# INTERNET REQUIREMENTS

- Make sure your Internet speed is fast enough to stream.
- 25-40Mbps is recommended for households with multiple streaming users and heavy use streamers.
- 40+Mbps is for really high use users. Online gaming, multiple streams, large downloads & uploads.
- Check your internet speed:  
<http://www.speedtest.net/>



# TV/DEVICE REQUIREMENTS

- If planning to use a TV to stream, you will need one with access to internet.
- Many modern TVs are “Smart TVs” – you can download apps, customize viewing, etc.
- Popular stores like Walmart will have ROKU TVs and Amazon Fire television sets. Samsung, Vizio, LG, and more have built-in access to streaming services.
- There are also devices that you can purchase and plug into your TV’s HDMI port.
- You can use your smartphone to download streaming service apps and watch on the go.



# AVAILABLE DEVICES

- Do some research before you purchase, or consult with a professional at a tech store or Best Buy. What are your streaming needs?
- Stick devices are a cheaper option with comparable functions.
- Table top devices add additional ports and some improved features.
- <https://www.cnet.com/topics/media-streamers/best-media-streamers/>

# TOP CONTENDERS



## **Roku**

Lots of different options, consider the Premiere+ or Ultra for 4K & HDR streaming.

## **Amazon Fire TV**

Good for Amazon Prime members. "Smart TV."

## **Amazon Fire TV Stick**

Plugs into your TV and allows you to access streaming services.

## **Google Chromecast**

Good for smartphone and tablet device-centric users.

## **Apple TV**

If you already love Apple products, you'll love Apple TV.

## **PlayStation 4 + XBOX One**

If you already have a newer gaming console, you can usually use those for streaming content.

# MORE INFORMATION

- <https://www.cordcuttersplus.com/>
- <https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/how-to-cut-the-cord/>
- <https://www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/streaming-media/video-streaming-services-that-let-you-cut-cable-tv-a9076884300/>

# POPULAR STREAMING SERVICES

- Amazon Prime Video
- Apple TV+
- Disney+
- ESPN+
- HBO Max
- Hulu
- Netflix
- Paramount+
- Peacock

# AMAZON PRIME VIDEO



**Notable titles:** Reacher, The Boys, Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, Fallout, Good Omens, Mission Impossible, The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power

- Film & TV + “Amazon Originals” + Universal, NBA, MGM
- Existing Amazon Prime members have a selection to choose from
- Prime Video: \$8.99/mo (with ads), \$14.99/mo if buying Amazon Prime with it
- <https://www.cabletv.com/amazon-prime-video>

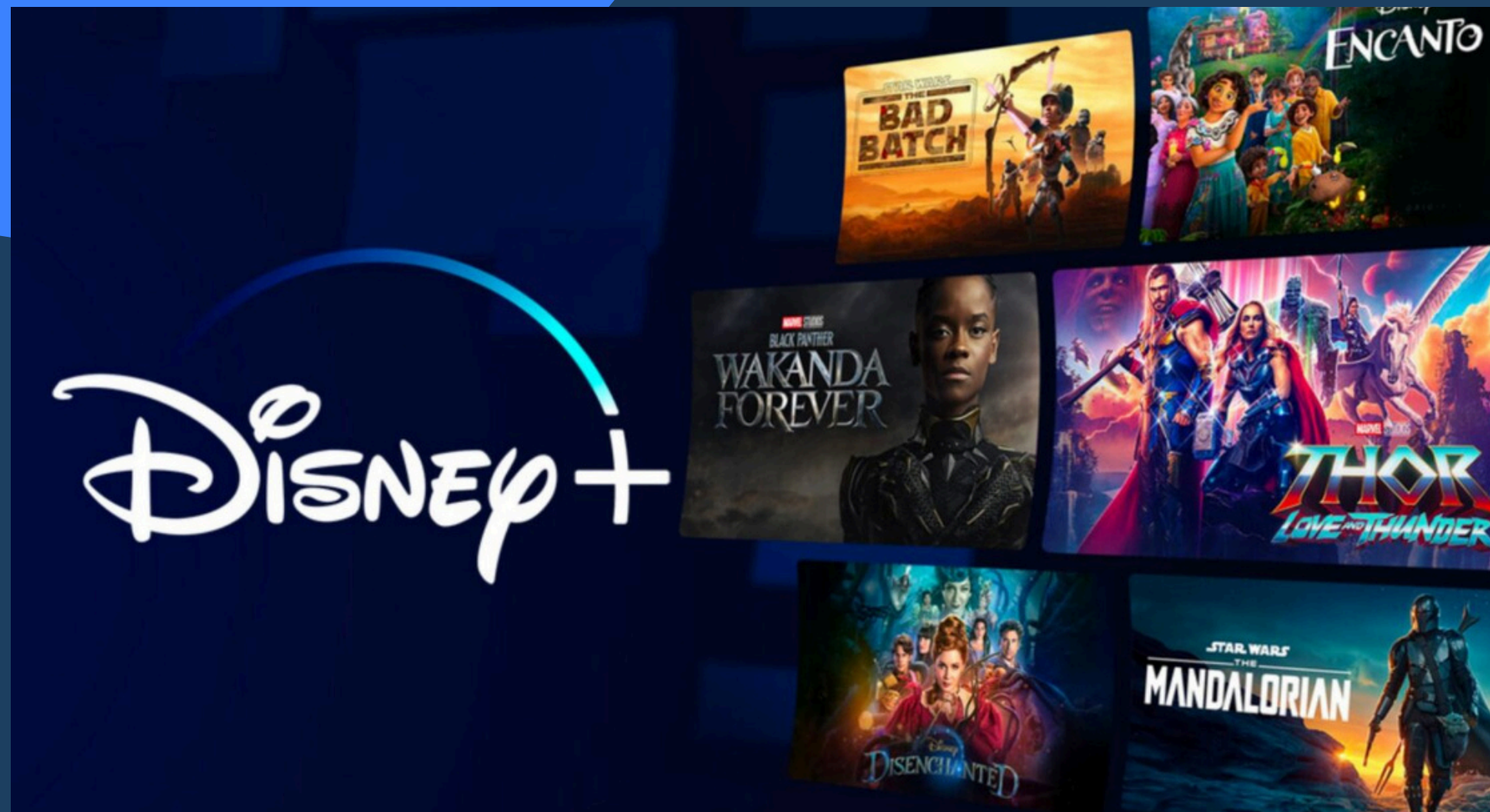
# APPLE TV+



**Notable titles:** Ted Lasso, Severance, Silo, Slow Horses, Lessons in Chemistry, Black Bird, Dickinson

- Selection of film & TV only available on the service (“Apple Originals”)
- 1 subscription can be shared with up to 5 people
- If you have Xfinity TV or internet, you can get a bundle with Apple TV+, Netflix, and Peacock for \$15/mo
- \$12.99/mo + free 7-day trial
- <https://www.apple.com/apple-tv-plus/>

# DISNEY+



**Notable titles:** All Marvel films and TV shows, Star Wars content, all Disney Pixar + Disney Animated films, concert documentaries

- Selection of film & TV titles owned by Disney (Marvel, National Geographic, ABC, ESPN, etc.) along with Hulu content
- Multiple types of subscriptions and bundles (see link below). Basic is \$12.99/mo with ads
- <https://help.disneyplus.com/article/disneyplus-price>

# ESPN+



- Access to thousands of live sports shows + exclusive content
- ESPN+ is increasing to \$12.99/mo starting in 2026. The bundle with Disney+ and Hulu will be \$19.99/mo.
- <https://support.espn.com>, click on "ESPN+ FAQs"

# HULU



**Notable titles:** The Bear, Shogun, Only Murders in the Building, The Handmaid's Tale, Abbott Elementary, Futurama, Little Fires Everywhere, The Sopranos

- Film & TV + Hulu originals
- Basic plan with ads is \$11.99/mo, no ads is \$18.99/mo.
- Can be bundled with Disney+, live TV channel access, and more. Info here: <https://help.hulu.com/article/hulu-how-much-does-hulu-cost>

# HBO MAX

The HBO Max logo is displayed in white text on a purple-to-blue gradient background. The word "HBO" is in a bold, sans-serif font, and "max" is in a lowercase, rounded sans-serif font. A small "SM" trademark symbol is located to the right of the "x" in "max".

HBO  
max<sup>SM</sup>

**Notable titles:** Mad Max, Dune, Barbie, Game of Thrones, Succession, The Last of Us, Euphoria, True Blood, John Wick, Alien

- Film & TV + HBO Originals
- Films are frequently rotated
- Plans start at \$10.99/mo, can be bundled with Disney+ and Hulu
- More info at [hbomax.com](https://hbomax.com)

# NETFLIX



- Film & TV + Netflix Originals, new content every week
- Standard plan with ads is \$8.99/mo.
- Info on plans here: <https://help.netflix.com/en/node/24926>
- **Notable titles:** Bridgerton, Stranger Things, Wednesday, K-Pop Demon Hunters, Lucifer, The Queen's Gambit

# PARAMOUNT+



- Film & TV + Paramount originals. Can also add Showtime
- Standard plan is \$8.99/mo
- Full plan info here:  
[paramountplus.com](https://paramountplus.com)
- **Notable titles:** NCIS, Survivor, Criminal Minds, Star Trek, Hawaii Five-O, 1883, Halo, Cheers, I Love Lucy

# PEACOCK



- Film & TV + Peacock Originals, live news and sports.
- Owned by NBC
- Standard plan with ads is \$7.99/mo.
- Info on plans here: [peacocktv.com](https://www.peacocktv.com)
- **Notable titles:** The Office, Yellowstone, Chicago Fire, Suits, Law & Order, Downton Abbey

# STREAMING SPORTS



- Bally Sports  
(<https://www.ballysports.com/packages>)
  - Local sports based on zip code
- ESPN+
- Live sports on YouTube TV, Hulu Plus Live TV, Sling
- More info on packages here:  
<https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/best-sports-streaming-service/>

# STREAMING BRITISH TV



- Acorn TV
  - \$8.99/month
  - Agatha Christie's Marple, Midsomer Murders, Foyle's War, Doc Martin, Agatha Raisin
  - Also offers shows from Australia, NZ, Canada
- BritBox
  - \$10.99/month
  - Exclusively British TV (BBC, ITV)

# FREE STREAMING SERVICES

- Pluto TV (owned by Paramount): [www.pluto.tv](http://www.pluto.tv)
- Crackle (owned by Sony): [www.crackle.com](http://www.crackle.com)
- Tubi (owned by Fox): [www.tubitv.com](http://www.tubitv.com)
- Plex: [www.plex.tv](http://www.plex.tv)
- More information here from Consumer Reports in 2026:  
<https://www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/streaming-media/guide-to-free-streaming-video-services-a1149608760/?srsltid=AfmBOoolvvSKJvc80ByAMQjWbeAMwykMGoR7Gik29x158Tc99OYJAZc5>

# LIVE TV STREAMING

- DirecTV Stream - most expensive, \$84.99 to \$169/month
- Fubo - \$40 to \$100/month, targets sports fans
- Hulu + Live TV - \$89.99/month with ads, \$99/month without, includes Hulu plus cable channels
- Philo - \$25/month, basically local channels with antenna
- Sling TV - \$45 to \$70/month, offers different packages of channels
- YouTube TV - \$82.99/month, 100+ live channels and major networks, considered best deal right now
- More info and prices here: <https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/best-live-tv-streaming-service-for-cord-cutters/>

# LIBRARY STREAMING SERVICES

The logo for Hoopla, featuring the word "hoopla" in a lowercase, blue, rounded font.

## Hoopla Digital

- Free access to movies, television, music, e-audiobooks, e-books & more with a library card
- Check out 5 titles per month to stream for free (3 day check out for tv and movies)

A blue stamp with a white border and the word "FREE" in white, slanted text.The logo for Kanopy, featuring the word "kanopy" in a white, lowercase, serif font, with a horizontal bar below it divided into four colored segments: red, orange, yellow, and black.

## Kanopy

- Free access to popular classic movies (including some from the Criterion Collection), independent films, and documentaries
- Borrow 10 titles per month to stream for free (3 day check out)



# HARRISON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Search Our Catalog

Borrow From Another Library  
Search MeLCat

Log In To Your Account  
Review your library account

Home

Services

Adults

Children

Teens

Library News

Events

Contact Us

About

Get Involved



## Creativebug

**\*\*NEW** at your library!  
The library now has Creativebug!  
about. Check out the new service!

Getting A Library Card

Borrowing Books and DVDs

eBooks, Digital Entertainment & Databases

The Go Library Card

Michigan Activity Pass

WiFi Hotspots for Checkout

Seed Library

Creativebug featuring online video tutorials of arts, crafts, and techniques. That's screen time you can feel good about. [Learn more about Creativebug](#)



## Upcoming Events

- [Baby Playgroup](#) on September 20, 2024 10:00 am
- [Drop-In Lego Club!](#) on September 20, 2024 6:00 pm

## Digital Entertainment

Downloadable eBooks, Audiobooks, Music, Video and Magazines

### Comics Plus\*



#### Comics Plus for Everyone

Entire collection of thousands of digital comics for adults, teens and children. This resource is available to all users.

[View Video Tutorial](#)

*[\\*Click here for all available editions](#)*

[Go to Freegal](#)

### Freegal Music



#### Freegal Music

Freegal is a free and legal (free+legal=Freegal! Get it?) music download service. You can download songs and keep them forever with library card!

[View Video Tutorial](#)

[Go to Freegal](#)

### Hoopla



#### Hoopla

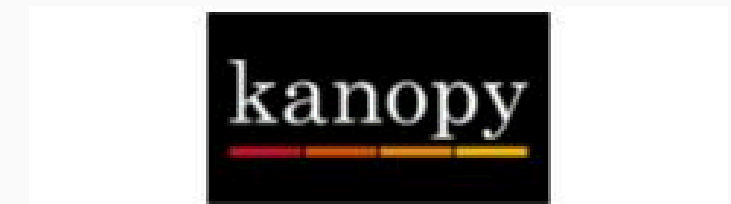
Hoopla is here! Instantly borrow free digital movies, music, eBooks and more, 24/7 with your library card.

[View Video Tutorial](#)

[Go to Hoopla](#)



### Kanopy



#### Kanopy

Kanopy showcases more than 30,000 titles, including award-winning documentaries and acclaimed films, rare and hard-to-find titles, and classic films, with collections from The Great Courses, Kino Lorber, and PBS among many others.

[View Video Tutorial](#)

[Go to Kanopy](#)



# SAVVY TIPS



- The best thing about cutting the cord is that there are no long-term contracts
- Subscribe to what you want, when you want it
- Example:
  - NBA Playoffs = Hulu Live TV, DirecTV Now, Sling TV, or Playstation Vue.
  - Grace & Frankie = Netflix.
- If a show ends and you're done rewatching, cancel the subscription to save \$

Take advantage of free trials – 1 week of binging can save you a lot of money!

Think a la carte! Figure out what you really want to watch and piece together the right combination for you.

# WHY STREAM?

- The average cable, internet, & phone bill has risen to \$122/month (Bank of America, 2025).
- Avoid long-term contracts, easy to cancel, can bundle
  - Something to remember: it's always changing
- Can avoid commercials (depending on plans)
- Can still access live TV on some services
- Offline viewing (can download content for on-the-go)
- Personalized recommendations

# CONS

- Plans and prices are constantly changing
  - Example: Last time we did this presentation in October 2024, prices were \$5 to \$20 cheaper for EVERY service!
- Services can swap, remove, change shows at their leisure
- Can be difficult to adapt to technology
  - Don't feel pressured to know \*everything\*
- Many companies no longer allow password sharing
  - Hulu and Disney, notably, require users to be in the same household

# CONCLUSION + HELPFUL LINKS

- “How to Choose the Streaming Services That Are Right For You”: [www.npr.org/2024/01/31/1226117501/best-streaming-service-netflix-amazon-prime-hulu-disney-max](http://www.npr.org/2024/01/31/1226117501/best-streaming-service-netflix-amazon-prime-hulu-disney-max)
- “Guide to Streaming Video Services”: [www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/streaming-media/guide-to-streaming-video-services-a4517732799/](http://www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/streaming-media/guide-to-streaming-video-services-a4517732799/)
- “Cord Cutters Streaming Survey”: [www.allaboutcookies.org/cord-cutters-streaming-survey](http://www.allaboutcookies.org/cord-cutters-streaming-survey)
- Check out [www.justwatch.com/us](http://www.justwatch.com/us) to see what shows are on what streaming series